

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-18 remain pending.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended merely to correct informalities therein and in no way have been amended to distinguish from the prior art of record.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wendt et al. in view of Barnes et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The independent claims require a first resilient (claims 1, 8 and 18) or elastomeric (claim 15) decoupling structure or means for mounting a motor to a shroud and a second flexible (claims 1, 8 and 18) or elastomeric (claim 15) decoupling structure or means for mounting the shroud to a shroud mounting structure. Thus, in an engine cooling system, the motor is isolated from the shroud and the shroud is isolated from its mount (e.g., auto frame).

Wendt et al. teach a resilient member 62 between the motor and support arm 32 and a resilient member 66 at a connection of the end of the support arm 21 and housing 10. The Examiner notes that the bracket 32 is not a shroud, but points to Barnes et al. as showing a shroud and contends that it would have been obvious to construct the motor of Wendt et al. with the shroud of Barnes to reduce vibration of the motor and the shroud. However, Wendt et al. do disclose a shroud 22, coupled to a housing 10, which prevents persons from touching the fan assembly 14. In Wendt et al., the motor 26 is in no way mounted to the shroud. It is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to the shroud of a vehicle engine cooling system as taught by Barnes et al. in modifying the residential air conditioning system as disclosed in Wendt et al. Even if such a modification were made, it would not result in the claimed invention since the shroud of Barnes et al. would replace the shroud 22 of Wendt et al. and the motor 22 would not be mounted to the shroud as claimed because the motor 26 of Wendt et al. is taught to be mounted to the housing 10.

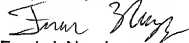
Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to replace the support arms 32 of Wendt et al. with the shroud of Barnes et al., since there is no teaching or suggestion in these references that such a modification would be useful nor how such a modification

could be made. In fact, Wendt et al. teach at column 4, lines 1-2 that the “arms 32 provide a flexible mounting arrangement that may be relatively noise free...”. It is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Wendt et al. by substituting the cumbersome and more rigid shroud of Barnes et al. for the simple, flexible support arms of Wendt et al.

For these reasons, the rejection of claims 1-18 is improper and should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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